

in-part remain pending in the application. Applicants confirm the election of the invention of Group IV and designation of the species of Example 6.

The Office rejects Claims 20, 21, 26, and 34-36 for lack of novelty under 35 USC § 102(b) based on the disclosure of Reymond, et al. With this Response and Amendment, the applicants have amended the claims to cover the compounds of Formula Ib₂. Claim 27 has been converted into a generic substance claim.

Moving on, pharmaceutical composition Claims 37 and 38 are objected to as being duplicates of generic pharmaceutical composition Claim 36. With this Response and Amendment, the applicants cancel Claim 38 and amend Claim 37 to claim the method of treating pathologies caused by attack on cartilage. Support for the amendment may be found in the claim and in the Specification at page 3, lines 14-16.

* * * * *

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

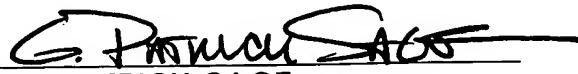
It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

By:



G. PATRICK SAGE

Dated: October 18, 2003

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Listing of Claims.

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR DEFECT IN THE ATTACHED CHECK, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19 (canceled)

20-(presently canceled)

21- (presently canceled)

22- (presently canceled)

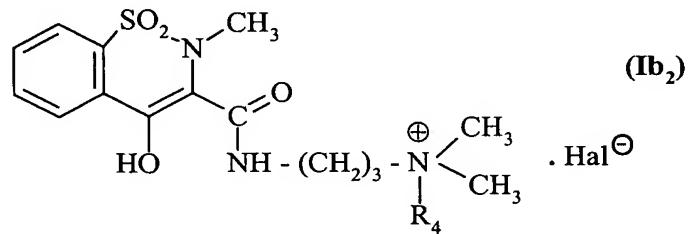
5 23- (presently canceled)

24- (presently canceled)

25- (presently canceled)

26- (presently canceled)

10 27- (presently amended) A compound selected from those of claim 20 which is represented by formula (Ib₂) :



wherein :

R₄ represents a linear or branched (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, and

Hal represents a halogen atom.

15 28- (presently canceled)

29- (presently canceled)

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30- (presently canceled)

31- (presently canceled)

32- (presently canceled)

33- (presently canceled)

34- (presently canceled)

5 35- (presently canceled)

36- (presently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound according to claim 27 20, alone or in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable, inert, non-toxic excipients or carriers.

10 37- (presently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36, comprising a compound according to claim 20, for use in the treatment of method of treating a living body afflicted with~~ pathologies caused by attack on cartilage, comprising administering to the living body an amount of a compound of Claim 27 which is effective for treatment of the pathology.

38- (presently canceled)